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9012817				Confidential PRO				2022166	
CODE COUNTRY 491 USSR				CODE POLITICAL SUB-DIVISION AND ECONOMIC REGION 1054 Fergana Oblast, Kazakh & C. Asia					
LOCATION Fergana				INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY CODES 46					
DATE/INFO			DATE/SOURCE			EVAL.	MN.&NO.	AF CHART	STATUS TYPE
DA.	MO.	YR.	DA.	MO.	YR.				NAMES
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			14	9	48			328	Fergana Canal
CIA NO. AND SOURCE									
CIA, FBIS No. 395									
MAJOR PRODUCT									

"Stalinabad, Sept. 11--On Sept. 12, the collective farmers of Vakhsh Valley will mark the 15th anniversary since the opening of the Stalin Canal. This the largest artificial waterway of Tadjikistan. It transformed the deserts into a flowering oasis. In the spring of 1931, on the decision of the Union Government the building of the new canal started in the Vakhsh Valley. Dozens of powerful excavators about 1,000 tractors and so forth were brought to the building site. Ten thousand collective farmers took part in the building of the canal. In 1933 the canal was completed. Six districts received the badly needed water, 72,000 hectares of new lands were irrigated. On the request of the Vakhsh Valley inhabitants the canal was named after Stalin.

Good Cotton Crops

"The canal turned the Vakhsh Valley into one of the main bases growing long-fiber cotton. The best harvest of this crop is gathered here. Last year the 38 best cotton growers of the valley were awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor. Each of them gathered 60 or more centners of long-fiber cotton per hectare. Over 1,000 leading cotton growers were awarded orders and medals. A good harvest has been grown this year as well.

"The lands irrigated by the Stalin Canal have become some of the best for subtropical plantations of (Khurma), (batat), figs, and lemons. The methods of irrigation are being improved..1,000 hectares more land will soon be irrigated for cotton and other agricultural crops."

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